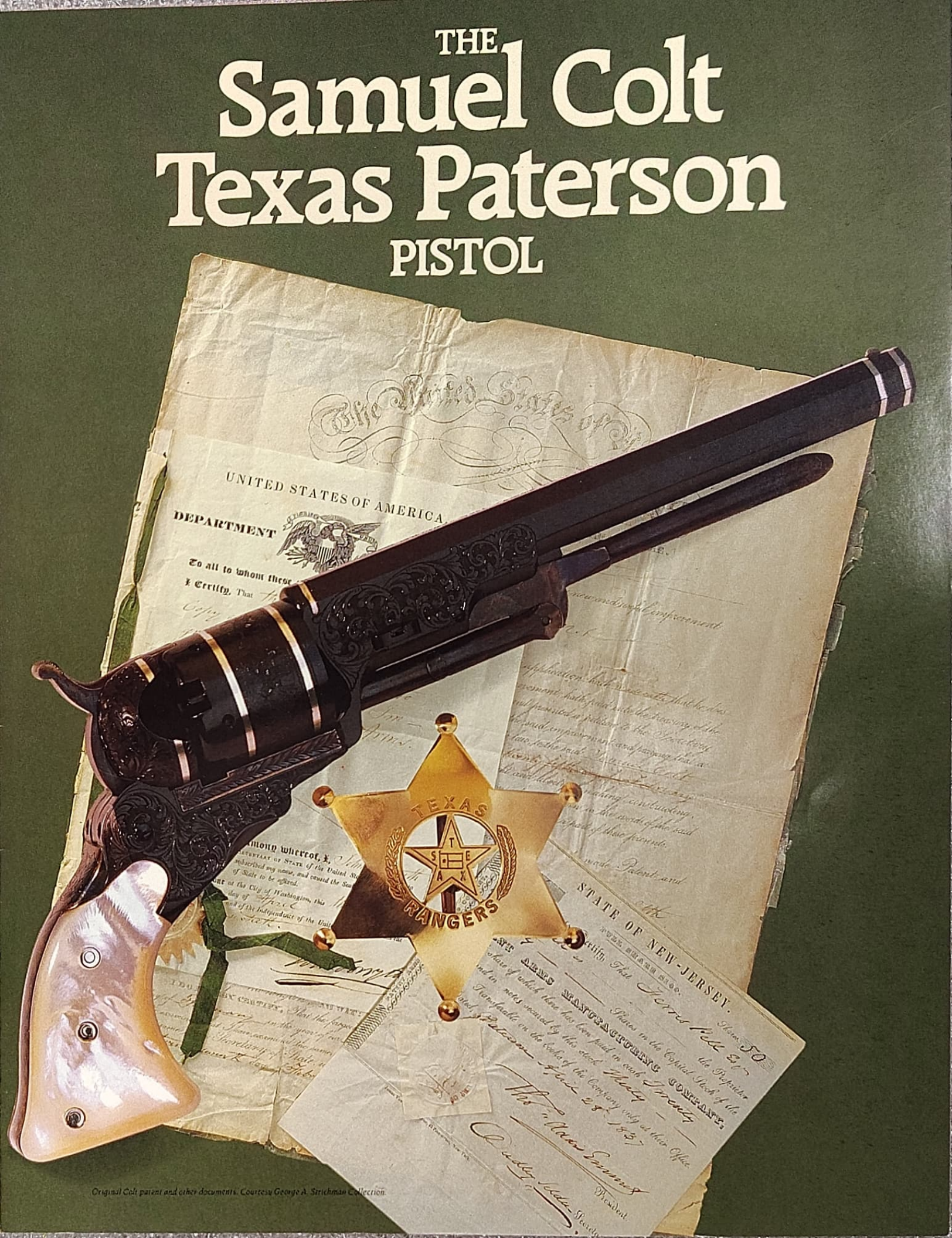
THE Samuel Colt Texas Paterson PISTOL



Original Colt patent and other documents. Courtesy George A. Strichman Collection.

The Samuel Colt Texas Paterson Pistol

Authorized by the United States Historical Society and the Samuel Colt Heritage Museum of Fine Firearms, Gettysburg

Edition limit: 1,000.

Includes accessories shown. Certificate of Authenticity and a numbered copy of *Paterson Colt Pistol Variations* signed by the authors, Philip R. Phillips and R.L. Wilson.

Specifications	
Length:	12½ inches
Caliber:	.36
Weight:	2 pounds, 12 ounces
Cylinder:	blued steel, decorated with solid silver
Grips:	mother-of-pearl
Frame and Barrel:	blued steel, hand-engraved, inlaid with solid silver bands
Loading Lever:	case hardened steel, hand-engraved
Backstrap:	blued steel, hand-engraved
Percussion Caps:	No. 11
Gun Powder:	Black powder only

The hand-engraved Samuel Colt Texas Paterson Pistol from the United States Historical Society is an authentic reproduction of the famous firearm designed and produced by Samuel Colt at his manufactory in Paterson, New Jersey. The pistol is almost identical to Serial No. 755 of the Holster pistol from the Philip R. Phillips Colt Collection at the Woolaroc Museum, Bartlesville, Oklahoma. In order to discourage someone from attempting to offer this reproduction as an original in the future, some of the markings and certain minute details have been changed.

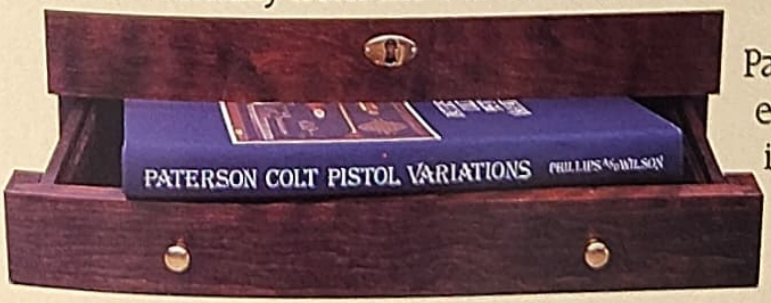
The pistol is called the Texas Paterson because of its early use by the Texas Rangers. It is a .36 caliber, five-shot pistol with a 7½" barrel. The flared grips are genuine mother-of-pearl, the same as Serial No. 755. The barrel, frame and backstrap are carefully hand-engraved by the finest artisans in the world. Silver bands decorate the barrel, cylinder and recoil shield. The cylinder is engraved with the original authentic scene of a stagecoach holdup.

The Texas Paterson first wrote the name Colt on the frontier and anybody who can own a Texas Paterson, ought to. This one by the Society is the best way to do that."

Ken Warner, Editor-in-Chief, *Gun Digest*

The three-piece loading lever, which is seldom seen, was one of Colt's improvements over the early Paterson pistols which required disassembly for loading. This rare loading lever is one of the important clues that the Samuel Colt Texas Paterson Pistol is an authentic reproduction of the original Colt.

The case, in select cherry, closely duplicates the original case for Serial No. 755. Accessories include a bullet mold, cleaning rod, screwdriver, brass plunger-type powder flask and a solid sterling silver capper duplicating the original design. Each fits in its special compartment in the partitioned case. The signed copy of *Paterson Colt Pistol Variations* is in a drawer below the pistol and accessory compartment. Both the book and the pistol will bear the Registry Number within the edition of 1,000. That number also will be inscribed on the Certificate of Authenticity from the United States Historical Society.



The Serial No. 1 Samuel Colt Texas Paterson Pistol is reserved for Texas Governor William Clements. A second pistol in this historic issue will be presented to The Samuel Colt Heritage Museum of Fine Firearms, Gettysburg.

The Texas Paterson's Place in History

The Texas Rangers

Depending on the gun's condition, an original hand-engraved Texas Paterson will bring from $100,000 to $150,000 in today's marketplace. This is due to Sam Colt's reputation, the quality workmanship, the gun's rarity and its place in history. The Paterson has a respected place in the history of American firearms, of course, but it also is closely linked with the history and development of Texas and of the American West.

In 1841, a battle was fought at a place called Enchanted Rock that changed the way of the frontier forever.

Texas Ranger Jack Hayes was surrounded by a hostile party of Comanche Warriors. He lay there in the hot Texas sun with his firearms by his side, waiting for the assault which was inevitable. An hour went by and, finally, the Comanches advanced from their hiding places, expecting a lone shot. Hayes fired his regulation single-shot rifle, as the Comanches expected. Then, to their surprise, with his new five-shot Colt Paterson revolver, he picked off several of the attackers and sent the others fleeing.

This action indelibly etched Colt's name in the history of the American West and forever associated his new Paterson revolver with the Texas Rangers.

A History of Samuel Colt's Paterson Pistol

by R. L. Wilson and Philip R. Phillips

Samuel Colt

SAMUEL COLT invented the first practical revolving cylinder production pistol. He developed the idea while sailing to India on the brig Corvo. This was c. 1830-1831, when he was only a teenager. He carved a rough wooden model on board ship. When he returned to the United States, his father and Henry Ellsworth, Commissioner of the U.S. Patent Office, encouraged him to develop his invention and to begin production of an actual working pistol. His U.S. Patent was issued on February 25, 1836.

Paterson pistols were manufactured by Samuel Colt's Patent Arms Manufacturing Company in Paterson, New Jersey, between 1837 and 1840. Approximately 2,850 were manufactured during this period, and while 20 or so variations exist, all of the guns had certain characteristics in common. They are percussion, 5-shot single-action revolvers with octagonal barrels and folding triggers that extend when the hammer is cocked.

The production models all had 11 grooves in the bore of the barrel, which came in many lengths, and calibers from .28 to .36. There were two styles of scenes on three basic types of cylinders. The grips, flared or straight shapes, were pearl, ivory or walnut, the latter becoming the standard.

Much of the Paterson pistol was manufactured by hand. Therefore, various parts of one pistol may not be interchangeable with another of the same size. Colt's manufactory did have a production line where a worker made some parts of the pistol and then passed it along the bench to the next worker. Colt was far ahead of his time and was one of the first to recognize the savings and advantages of the assembly line approach. In this type of manufacture, however, a certain amount of hand fitting was required by each workman and, as a result, small differences are evident from pistol to pistol.

Many Patersons were originally issued with a case, an extra cylinder and proper accessories. The extra cylinder was carried loaded, and the case was needed to keep the loading tools intact. The accessories were important for maintenance and shooting. The advent of the attached loading lever streamlined the loading procedures greatly.

Paterson pistols were for personal protection and military use and were carried in all kinds of weather. In addition to the hard use they received, their interior parts were rather frail. Thus, the survival rate is very low. Probably only 350 to 450 original pistols are still in existence. This scarcity contributes to the high value of a Paterson revolver today.

The official Samuel Colt Texas Paterson Pistol is available only through the United States Historical Society, a private, non-governmental organization dedicated to historical research and the sponsorship of projects and issuance of objects chosen by the Society for artistic and historic significance.

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